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ER-2-7472

2 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Proposed European Trip of [] of
the Psychological Strategy Board Staff

REFERENCE : Mr. Tracy Barnes' Note of March 27 and
Attachments

1. In your note to me dated 28 March you have indicated that in a conversation with Tracy Barnes you stated that you saw no objection to the proposed trip by [] and you have asked me for my comments prior to the next meeting of the PSB at which time Mr. [] trip will come before the Board.

2. It seems to me that the main question that the Board should address itself to is whether the Director and members of the PSB staff should engage themselves in foreign travel as a part of their regular duties and responsibilities and, if so, on what basis and how much. Having decided this broad question as a matter of principle, it would be much simpler to determine in a particular case, such as the proposed [] trip, whether it is to the interest to the Board and the work of the staff for trips to be taken. I was not previously aware of any plan on the part of the Board to have members of the staff traveling abroad. An argument can always be made out in favor of foreign travel, overseas experience and firsthand observations of matters with which the PSB or any other organization is concerning itself.

3. Concerning this particular trip and the four stated purposes, I have the following comments and suggestions:

a. [] This is a PSB plan and it would make good sense for a representative of the PSB staff to look into its progress and familiarize himself with the local situation in []

b. European Coordination of Psychological Operations.
There would be no objection that I can see to an extension of PSB inquiry and examination into the status of coordination

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of psychological operations in [] or, for that matter, in [] gets to be a bit tricky and I would not consider it useful for PSB to go into the question in other European countries.

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c. Escapees Program, Phase A. I doubt if it would be necessary or would serve any particularly useful purpose for [] to make a tour of the periphery of the Iron Curtain, as seems to be suggested in this section of his memorandum.

d. Escapees Program, Phase B. [] informs me that he is inclined to question the value of a PSB effort to determine the number of escapees currently crossing the border who are usable for the various purposes now being considered by the Phase B Panel.

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(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

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Attachment (1)

FGW:vmh

Distribution:

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